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Message Text

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42
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEAE-00

OMB-01 /077 W
---------- 034176
P R 181203Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9183
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE
SUBJECT: AUGUST 18 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT PRESIDENT ASAD'S REMARKS ON LEBANESE CRISIS AT COLOMBO NAC AND DECLINING SUPPORT FOR JUMBLATT AMONG LEBANESE DRUZE COMMUNITY

1. SYRIAN MEDIA GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT ASAD'S SPEECH AT COLOMBO NAC. PRESS BANNERED HIS REMARKS ABOUT LEBANON: "FORCES OPPOSING ARAB NATION EXPLODED INCIDENTS IN LEBANON. OUR EFFORTS ACHIEVED SECURITY AND TRANQUILITY IN VAST AREAS OF FRATERNAL COUNTRY. WE HOPE ALL WILL COOPERATE TO OVERCOME PLOT." SPEECH REVEALED NO CHANGES IN SYRIAN POLICY TOWARD LEBANON (DETAILS REPORTED SEPTEL). ASAD CONTINUED HIS CONTACTS WITH INTERNATIONAL LEADERS AT NAC, INCLUDING SYG WALDHEIM, SHEIKH ZAYID OF ABU DHABI, TUNISIAN FONMIN, AMIR OF BAHRAIN, MOROCCAN PRIMIN AND
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SECGEN OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. PRESS REPORTED

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DISCUSSIONS CONCENTRATED ON LEBANON AND OTHER ISSUES.

2. UNDER CAPTION, "JUMBLATT FACES ISOLATION FROM HIS FELLOW DRUZE," PRESS REPORTED SANA RELEASE CLAIMING JUMBLATT LOSING SUPPORT OF OTHER DRUZE LEADERS. CITING ARRIVAL OF LEBANESE DRUZE DELEGATION IN DAMASCUS PREVIOUS WEEK, ARTICLE REPORTED COMMENTS BY DELEGATION MEMBERS THAT JUMBLATT NOT ENTITLED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF DRUZE COMMUNITY IN LEBANON BECAUSE HE HOPESNOT REFLECT THEIR VIEWS.

3. TISHRIIN COLUMNIST CHARGED "SADAT REGIME" WITH INFLAMING CONFESSIONAL STRIFE AND WORKING TO IMPLEMENT PARTITION IN LEBANON.

4. COMMENT: SARG IS CONTINUING ITS ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE JUMBLATT'S SUPPORT WITHIN DRUZE COMMUNITY IN ADDITION TO WEANING AWAY TRADITIONAL SUNNI MUSLIM LEADERS.
MURPHY

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Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, (ASAD, HAFIZ AL)
To: STATE
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